

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 2021-336-C - ORDER NO. 2022-139

FEBRUARY 24, 2022

IN RE:	Application of CenturyTel Broadband Services,)	ORDER GRANTING
	LLC ("CTBS") for a Certificate of Public Convenience)	CERTIFICATE
	and Necessity to Provide Competing Local Exchange,)	AND APPROVING
	Exchange Access and Interexchange)	ALTERNATIVE
	Telecommunications Services in the State of Carolina,)	AND FLEXIBLE
	and for Alternative and Flexible Regulation)	REGULATION

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") on the Application of CenturyTel Broadband Services, LLC ("CTBS," "Company," or "Applicant") for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN"), authorizing CTBS to provide facilities-based and resold local exchange, including exchange access and interexchange telecommunications services, within the State of South Carolina. Additionally, the Company seeks alternative and flexible regulation. The proposed flexible regulation would be in accordance with procedures authorized for NewSouth Communications in Order No 98-165 in Docket No. 1997-467-C, and for interexchange service offerings to be regulated in accordance with procedures established for alternative regulation in Order Nos. 95-1734 and 96-55 in Docket No. 95-661-C, as modified by Commission Order No. 2001-997 in Docket No. 2000-407-C.

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Company filed its Application on October 20, 2021, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-280 (2015 and Supp. 2021) and the rules and regulations of the Commission. As noted, CTBS requests flexible regulation as well as a waiver of certain Commission regulations, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-585 and the general regulatory authority of the Commission.

The Clerk's Office of the Commission instructed the Company to publish, one time, a Notice of Filing ("Notice") in newspapers of general circulation in the areas of the state affected by the Application. The Notice provided information regarding the nature of the proceeding and advised any person desiring to participate as a party of record to file a Petition to Intervene on or before December 13, 2021. The Applicants complied with this instruction and provided the Commission with proof of publication of the Notice.

The South Carolina Telephone Coalition ("SCTC"), represented by Margaret M. Fox, Esquire, and M. John Bowen, Esquire, filed a Petition to Intervene on November 23, 2021. The Petition was granted.¹ Following SCTC's intervention, SCTC and the Company reached a Stipulation. SCTC agreed to withdraw its opposition to the granting of a statewide CPCN to the Company, provided the conditions contained in the Stipulation are met. At the hearing, the Stipulation was submitted into evidence and is incorporated herein as Order Exhibit I.

The Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS"), a party of record pursuant to Section 58-4-10 of the South Carolina Code of Laws (Supp. 2021), filed a Notice of Appearance of

¹ Order No. 2021-151-H

Donna L. Rhaney, Esquire, and C. Lessie Hammonds, Esquire, on November 22, 2021. ORS reviewed the Application and concluded the Company's request for a CPCN was consistent with the public interest. Additionally, in correspondence dated January 13, 2022, ORS informed the Commission that it did not intend to appear at the hearing. ORS's correspondence is attached as Order Exhibit 2.

A virtual hearing was held on January 31, 2022, at 10:00 A.M. before Hearing Examiner Sandra V. Moser, Esquire, appointed by Commission Directive. Appearing on behalf of the Applicant was Scott Elliott, Esquire. Ted Hankins, Government Affairs Director of CenturyLink Service Group, testified in support of the Application. Neither SCTC nor ORS were present at the hearing.

II. EVIDENCE OF RECORD

According to the record, CTBS is a limited liability company ("LLC") organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana and registered to do business in the State of South Carolina. CTBS seeks authority to provide local and interexchange facilities-based telecommunications services to customers throughout South Carolina. (Hankins Direct Testimony, p. 3.) In addition to its Application, the Company provided Formation Documents, Proposed Tariffs, a Certificate of Authority, and a link to its 10-K, a comprehensive report filed annually by publicly traded companies. These documents, as well as the Stipulation and testimony of Mr. Hankins, provide the evidentiary basis to support granting the Application.

CTBS is a direct, wholly owned subsidiary of Lumen Technologies, Inc. ("Lumen"). (Hankins Direct Testimony, p. 3.) "Lumen, through its subsidiaries, including CTBS, provides high-quality voice and data services to enterprise, government, wholesale,

and carrier customers overs its IP-based network in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and more than 60 countries.” (*Id.*) Currently, CTBS provides broadband services and owns the requisite equipment and facilities to do so. (Hankins Direct Testimony, p. 3.)

By way of its Application, CTBS proposes to provide local and interexchange facilities-based services to customers throughout the state and will perform network and equipment maintenance. (Hankins Direct Testimony, p. 4.) For regulated voice services, CTBS initially plans to operate as a reseller of services by its affiliates and/or other companies. (Application, p. 3; Hankins Testimony, p. 3.) Eventually, the Applicant states it may build a network in areas outside the territory of its South Carolina incumbent local exchange carrier (“ILEC”) affiliate, United Telephone Company of the Carolinas, LLC d/b/a CenturyLink (“United”). (*Id.*)

According to its Application and the evidence in the record, CTBS is managerially and technically qualified to provide competing local exchange and competitive intrastate telecommunications services (Application, pp. 4-5.) CTBS will rely on its existing corporate management, technical, and operations staffs responsible for telecommunications operations. (Application, p. 5.) “Given that CTBS and Lumen share the same management team, CTBS’s customers will benefit from that team’s knowledge and experience in the South Carolina market,” as well as their telecommunications and technical expertise. (*Id.*) CTBS will handle service repairs “using its own agents or through agents contracted with an independent third-party contractor.” (Hankins Direct Testimony, p. 4.)

In regard to financial resources, Mr. Hankins maintains that CTBS has substantial assets and the capability to continue providing its telecommunications services, while

meeting its lease and ownership obligations. (Hankins Direct Testimony, p. 5.) No judgments have been levied against the Company. (*Id.*) Further, no change in billing practices is contemplated as a result of the proposed expanded authority. (*Id.*) Based on the evidence in the record, the Applicant meets the requisite technical, financial, and managerial resources in order to provide the services requested.

Mr. Hankins submits that approval of the Company's Application will have no immediate impact on customers; rather, it will offer an alternative service provider and increase the number of competitors in the state. (Hankins Direct Testimony, p. 5.) The Company emphasized they will provide safe, reliable, and high-quality telecommunications services. (Application, p. 4.) Thus, certification would serve the public interest.

Mr. Hankins also affirmed the Company would operate in accordance with Commission rules, regulations, guidelines, and orders. Applicant is committed to providing access to a local operator, directory assistance, 911 services, and dual-party relay services. Applicant is also willing to accept its obligations to collect 911 and dual-party relay service surcharges from its local exchange customers, and to remit those funds to the appropriate authorities. CTBS's proposed tariffs set forth "the terms, conditions, rates, charges and regulations pursuant to which Applicant proposes to provide regulated telecommunications service." (Application, pp. 3-4.) Furthermore, CTBS states "its planned service offerings will meet or exceed the Commission's quality of service requirements." (*Id.* at p. 4.)

As a part of its Application, CTBS requests a waiver of S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-610, which would require the Company to maintain its books in South Carolina as well as Louisiana. CTBS suggests maintaining a separate set of records outside of its principal

place of business would be unnecessarily burdensome. (Application, p. 6.) Furthermore, the Applicant states all materials could be made available to the Commission or ORS upon request, eliminating the need for a separate set of records. (*Id.*)

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-611, the Company also requests an exemption from record-keeping policies that require maintenance of financial records in conformance with the Uniform System of Accounts ("USOA"). The Company currently maintains its books in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP") and requests to continue maintaining them in this way. Additionally, the Company seeks a waiver of Commission Regulation 103-631 so that it will not be required to publish local exchange directories. The Company will contract with incumbent local exchange carriers for the inclusion of the Company's CLEC databases into the master customer database of the local exchange carrier. Finally, because the Applicant's local exchange calling areas will initially mirror the service area of the incumbent local exchange carriers, the Applicant requests a waiver of the map filing requirement of Commission Regulations 103-612.2.3.

After consideration of the applicable law, the Company's Application, and the evidence presented at the hearing, the Commission hereby issues its findings of fact and conclusions of law:

III. FINDINGS OF FACT

After review of all the evidence presented in this docket, the Commission makes the following findings of fact:

1. The Company is a limited liability corporation organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana and registered to do business in the State of South Carolina.

2. The Company is a provider of local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services and wishes to provide its services in South Carolina.

3. The Commission finds that the Company has the managerial, technical, and financial resources to provide the services as described in its Application. S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-280(B)(1) (2015).

4. The Commission finds that the Company's "provision of service will not adversely impact the availability of affordable local exchange service." S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-280(B)(3) (2015).

5. The Commission finds that the Company will support universally available telephone service at affordable rates. S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-280(B)(4) (2015).

6. The Commission finds that services to be provided by the Company will meet the service standards of the Commission. S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-280(B)(2) (2015).

7. The Commission finds that the provision of local exchange and interexchange services by the Company "does not otherwise adversely impact the public interest." S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-280(B)(5) (2015).

8. The Commission finds that as the result of the Stipulation, SCTC has withdrawn its opposition to the Application.

9. The Commission finds that the Stipulation between SCTC and the Applicant is in the public interest.

10. The Commission finds that the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to the Company to operate as a provider of local exchange and

interexchange telecommunications services in South Carolina would be in the public interest of South Carolina by providing competitive choices.

11. The Commission finds that ORS did not appear at the hearing and it did not oppose granting the CPCN herein.

12. The Commission finds the Company's requested waiver of S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-610, 103-611, 103-631, and 103-612.2.3 are reasonable and in the public interest.

IV. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Commission concludes that the Company possesses the managerial, technical, and financial resources to provide the telecommunications services as described in its Application. S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-280(B)(1) (2015).

2. The Commission concludes that the Company will provide services which will meet the service standards of the Commission. S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-280(B)(2) (2015).

3. The Commission concludes that the Company's provision of service will not adversely impact the availability of affordable local exchange service. S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-280(B)(3) (2015).

4. The Commission concludes that the Company will, to the extent that the Company may be required to do so by the Commission, participate in the support of universally available telephone service at affordable rates. S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-280(B)(4) (2015).

5. The Commission concludes that the Company will collect 911 and dual-party relay service surcharges and remit those funds to the appropriate authorities.

6. The Commission concludes that approval of the Company's Application to provide resold and facilities-based local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services within South Carolina does not otherwise adversely impact the public interest. S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-280(B)(5) (2015).

7. The Stipulation, as documented in Order Exhibit 1, between the Company and SCTC are approved and adopted as part of this Order. Any proposal to provide local telecommunications service to rural service areas, regardless of the technology employed, is therefore subject to the terms of the Stipulation.

8. The Commission concludes that a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity shall be granted to the Company to provide facilities based and resold intrastate local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services.

9. Should the Company offer residential interexchange services in the future, the Commission adopts a rate design for the Company for its residential interexchange services which includes maximum rate levels for each tariff charge. A rate structure incorporating maximum rate levels with the flexibility for adjustment below the maximum rate levels has been previously adopted by the Commission. *In Re: Application of GTE Sprint Communications Corporation, etc.*, Order No. 84-622, issued in Docket No. 84-10-C (August 2, 1984).

10. Should the Company offer residential interexchange services in the future, the Company shall not adjust its residential interexchange rates for end-users below the approved maximum level without notice to the Commission and to the public. The Company shall file its proposed rate changes, publish its notice of such changes, and file affidavits of publication with the Commission two weeks prior to the effective date of the

changes. However, the public notice requirement is waived, and therefore not required, for reductions below the maximum cap in instances which do not affect the general body of subscribers or do not constitute a general rate reduction. *In Re: Application of GTE Sprint Communications, etc.*, Order No. 93-638, issued in Docket No. 84-10-C (July 16, 1993). Any proposed increase in the maximum rate level for residential interexchange services reflected in the tariff which would be applicable to the general body of the Company's subscribers shall constitute a general ratemaking proceeding and will be treated in accordance with the notice and hearing provisions of S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-540 (2015).

11. The Commission concludes the Company's local exchange telecommunications services shall be regulated in accordance with the principles and procedures established for flexible regulation first granted to NewSouth Communications by Order No. 98-165 in Docket No. 97-467-C. Specifically, the Commission adopts for the Company's competitive intrastate local exchange services a rate structure incorporating maximum rate levels with the flexibility for adjustment below the maximum rate levels approved by the Commission. Further, the Company's local exchange service tariff filings are presumed valid upon filing. An investigation of the tariff filing may be instituted within thirty (30) days of the tariff filing, in which case the tariff filing would be suspended pending further Order of the Commission. If an investigation is instituted on a particular tariff filing, notice of the investigation will be provided to the person or entity making the tariff filing and to the Commission. The notice is timely if dated within thirty days of the filing date. Further, any such tariff filings will be subject to the same monitoring process as similarly situated competitive local exchange carriers.

12. The Commission concludes that the Company's intrastate interexchange business telecommunications services shall be regulated in accordance with the principles and procedures established for alternative regulation of business service offerings set out in Order Nos. 95-1734 and 96-55 in Docket No. 95-661-C. The Commission has previously granted this "alternative regulation" to competitive intrastate interexchange carriers operating within South Carolina, and the Commission concludes that the competitive marketplace requires the Commission to allow this flexible regulation to those carriers which request it. Specifically, the Commission-approved alternative regulation allows business service offerings, including consumer card services and operator services, to be subject to a relaxed regulatory scheme identical to that granted to AT&T Communications in Order Nos. 95-1734 and 96-55 in Docket No. 95-661-C. However, pursuant to Order No. 2001-997 (Docket No. 2000-407-C), this Commission has modified alternative regulation by the re-imposition of rate caps with regard to certain "operator-assisted calls" where a customer uses a local exchange carrier's calling card to complete calls from locations which have not selected that local exchange carrier as the toll provider. Order No. 2001-997, dated November 8, 2001, imposed a maximum cap of \$1.75 for operator surcharges for such calls, and a maximum cap of \$0.35 related to the flat per-minute rate associated with these calls. Under this relaxed regulatory scheme, tariff filings for business services shall be presumed valid upon filing. The Commission will have seven (7) days from the date of filing in which to institute an investigation of any tariff filing. If the Commission institutes an investigation of a particular tariff filing within the seven (7) days, the tariff filing will then be suspended until further order of the Commission.

13. The Commission concludes that the Company's request for waiver of S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-610 shall be granted because strict compliance with the regulation potentially causes undue hardship on the Company. We also grant exemption from the policies requiring the use of USOA, pursuant to S.C. Ann. Regs 103-611, and grant waiver of S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-631, regarding publication of a local telephone directory. Finally, we grant waiver of S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-612.2.3, which requires filing a map of the service territory.

V. ORDERING PROVISIONS

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED THAT:

1. A Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity shall be granted to CenturyTel Broadband Services, LLC to provide competitive local exchange telecommunications services on a facilities-based or resold basis and to provide interexchange services.

2. The terms of the Stipulation between the Company and SCTC are hereby approved and adopted as part of this Order. The Stipulation is attached as Order Exhibit 1. Any proposal to provide competitive local exchange telecommunications services to rural service areas is subject to the terms of the Stipulation.

3. The regulatory treatment adopted for the Company's services shall conform to the design described in Conclusions of Law above.

4. If it has not already done so, the Company shall file its revised tariff utilizing the Commission's e-filing system for tariffs by the date of the issuance of this Order. The revised tariff should be electronically filed in a text searchable PDF format using the Commission's DMS System (<http://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web>). An additional copy shall be sent

via email to etariff@psc.sc.gov to be included in the Commission's ETariff System (<http://etariff.psc.sc.gov/Organization>). Future revisions to the tariff shall be made using the ETariff System. The revised tariff shall be consistent with the findings of this Order, agreements with other parties to this case, and the Commission's Rules and Regulations. The revised tariffs shall be filed as stated within 30 days of receipt of this Order.

5. The Company shall resell the services regulated by this Commission of only those local exchange carriers (LECs) authorized to do business in South Carolina by this Commission.

6. The Company shall file annual financial information in the form of annual reports and gross receipts reports as required by the Commission. The annual report and the gross receipt report will necessitate the filing of South Carolina information. Therefore, the Company shall keep financial records on its South Carolina operations and all other operations to comply with the annual report and gross receipts filings. The proper form for filing annual financial information can be found at the ORS's website at <https://ors.sc.gov/>. The title of this form is "Telecommunications Company Annual Report." This form shall be utilized by the Company to file annual financial information with the Commission and ORS and shall be filed no later than **April 1st**.

7. Commission gross receipts forms are due to be filed with the Commission and ORS no later than **August 31st** of each year. The proper form for filing gross receipts information can be found at the ORS website at <https://ors.sc.gov/>, and the appropriate form is entitled "Gross Receipts Form."

8. Each telecommunications company certified in South Carolina is required to file annually with the ORS the Intrastate Universal Service Fund ("USF") worksheet,

which may be found on the ORS's website at <https://ors.sc.gov/>. This worksheet provides ORS information required to determine each telecommunications company's liability to the State USF fund. The Intrastate USF worksheet must be completed in its entirety and is due to be filed annually no later than **August 1st** with the Commission and ORS.

9. The Company shall, in compliance with Commission regulations, designate and maintain an authorized utility representative who is prepared to discuss, on a regulatory level, customer relations (complaint) matters, engineering operations, tests, and repairs. In addition, the Company shall provide to the Commission and ORS in writing the name of the authorized representative to be contacted in connection with general management duties as well as emergencies which occur during non-office hours. The Company shall file the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of these representatives with the Commission within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Order. The "Authorized Utility Representative Information" form can be found at the Commission's website at <http://psc.sc.gov/forms>; this form shall be utilized for the provision of this information to the Commission and ORS. This form shall be updated annually with the filing of the Company's Telecommunications Company Annual Report. Further, the Company shall promptly notify the Commission and ORS in writing if the representatives are replaced. If the Company changes or modifies its name, the Company shall file such changes with the Commission for approval.

10. The Company is directed to comply with all Rules and Regulations of the Commission unless a regulation is specifically waived by the Commission.

11. The Company requested a waiver of Code Ann. Regs. 103-610 (Supp. 2012), which requires that records required by the Commission's Rules and Regulations

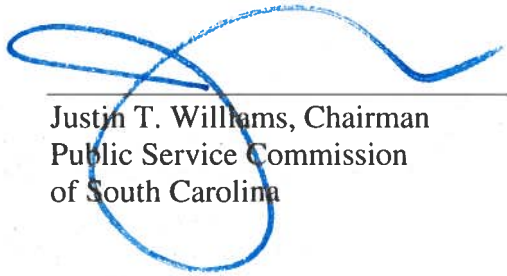
be maintained in South Carolina. The Commission finds the Company's requested waiver reasonable. The Commission therefore grants the requested waiver. However, the Company shall make available its books and records at all reasonable times upon request by ORS, at the Company's expense, and the Company shall promptly notify the Commission and ORS if the location of its books and records changes. Further, the Company is granted a waiver of the requirement that books and records be maintained in accordance with the Uniform Systems of Accounts ("USOA"). The Commission grants the Applicant's request for the waiver of the requirement that it file a map of its service territory as required by 10 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-612.2.3 and the publication of directories as required by 10 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-631. The Company is directed to comply with all Rules and Regulations of the Commission unless the Commission specifically waives compliance with a regulation.

12. The Company is required to comply with Title 23, Chapter 47, South Carolina Code of Laws Annotated, which governs the establishment and implementation of a "Public Safety Communications Center," which is more commonly known as a "911" system or "911 service." Services available through a 911 system include law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services. In recognition of the necessity of quality 911 services being provided to the citizens of South Carolina, in the event the Company offers or provides the appropriate services, the Commission hereby instructs the Company to contact the appropriate authorities regarding 911 service in the counties and cities where the Company will be operating. Contact with the appropriate 911 service authorities is to be made before voice or dial tone service in South Carolina. By this Order and prior to providing voice or dial tone services within South Carolina, the Company shall contact the

911 coordinator in each county, as well as the 911 Coordinator in each city where the city has its own 911 system and shall provide information regarding the Company's operations as required by the 911 system.

13. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Justin T. Williams, Chairman
Public Service Commission
of South Carolina

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

Docket No. 2021-336-C

Re: Application of CenturyTel Broadband
Services, LLC ("CTBS") for a Certificate
of Public Convenience and Necessity to
Provide Competing Local Exchange,
Exchange Access and Interexchange
Telecommunications Services in the State
of South Carolina, and for Alternative
Regulation and Flexible Regulation)
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STIPULATION

The South Carolina Telephone Coalition ("SCTC") (see attachment "A" for list of companies) and CenturyTel Broadband Services, LLC ("CTBS" or "Applicant") hereby enter into the following stipulations. As a consequence of these stipulations and conditions, SCTC does not oppose CTBS's Application. SCTC and Applicant stipulate and agree as follows:

1. SCTC does not oppose the granting of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Applicant, provided the South Carolina Public Service Commission ("Commission") makes the necessary findings to justify granting of such a certificate, and provided the conditions contained within this stipulation are met.

2. Applicant stipulates and agrees that any Certificate which may be granted will authorize Applicant to provide service only to customers located in non-rural local exchange company ("LEC") service areas of South Carolina, except as provided herein.

3. Applicant stipulates that it is not asking the Commission to make a finding at this time regarding whether competition is in the public interest for rural areas.

4. Applicant stipulates and agrees that it will not provide any local service, by its own facilities or otherwise, to any customer located in a rural incumbent LEC's service area, unless and until Applicant provides such rural incumbent LEC and the Commission with written notice of its intent to do so at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the intended service. During such notice period, the rural incumbent LEC will have the opportunity to petition the Commission to exercise all rights afforded it under Federal and State law. Also, Applicant acknowledges that the Commission may suspend the intended date for service in rural LEC territory for ninety (90) days while the Commission conducts any proceeding incident to the Petition or upon the Commission's own Motion, provided that the Commission can further suspend the implementation date upon showing of good cause.

5. Applicant stipulates and agrees that, if Applicant gives notice that it intends to serve a customer located in a rural incumbent LEC's service area, and either (a) the Commission receives a Petition from the rural incumbent LEC to exercise its rights under Federal or State law within such 30-day period, or (b) the Commission institutes a proceeding of its own, then Applicant will not provide service to any customer located within the service area in question without prior and further Commission approval.

6. Applicant acknowledges that any right which it may have or acquire to serve a rural telephone company service area in South Carolina is subject to the conditions contained herein, and to any future policies, procedures, and guidelines relevant to such proposed service which the Commission may implement, so long as such policies, procedures, and guidelines do not conflict with Federal or State law.

7. The parties stipulate and agree that all rights under Federal and State law are reserved to the rural incumbent LECs and Applicant, and this Stipulation in no way suspends or

adversely affects such rights, including any exemptions, suspensions, or modifications to which they may be entitled.

8. Applicant agrees to abide by all State and Federal laws and to participate, to the extent it may be required to do so by the Commission, in the support of universally available telephone service at affordable rates.

9. Applicant hereby amends its application and its pre-filed testimony in this docket to the extent necessary to conform with this Stipulation.

10. Notwithstanding any provision contained herein, the terms, conditions and limitations of the Stipulation apply only in those instances where a rural telephone company's federal rural exemption under 47 U.S.C. § 251(f)(1) is implicated.

AGREED AND STIPULATED to this 21st day of December, 2021.

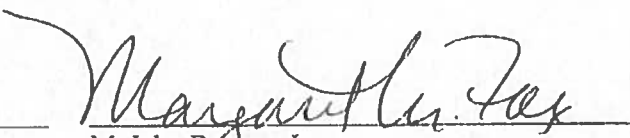
CenturyTel Broadband Services, LLC

South Carolina Telephone Coalition



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ATTACHMENT A

South Carolina Telephone Coalition Member Companies
for Purposes of Local Service Stipulation

Chesnee Telephone Company
Chester Telephone Company, d/b/a TruVista
Comporium, Inc. (f/k/a Rock Hill Telephone Company)
Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Ft. Mill Telephone Company, d/b/a Comporium
Home Telephone ILEC, LLC d/b/a Home Telecom
Lancaster Telephone Company, d/b/a Comporium
Lockhart Telephone Company, d/b/a TruVista
McClellanville Telephone Company (TDS)
Norway Telephone Company (TDS)
Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
PBT Telecom, d/b/a Comporium
Ridgeway Telephone Company, d/b/a TruVista
St. Stephen Telephone Company (TDS)
West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Williston Telephone Company (TDS)

Nanette S. Edwards, *Executive Director*



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January 13, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esquire
Chief Clerk & Administrator
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

RE: Application of CenturyTel Broadband Services, LLC ("CTBS") for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Competing Local Exchange, Exchange Access and Interexchange Telecommunications Services in the State of Carolina, and for Alternative and Flexible Regulation
Docket No. 2021-336-C

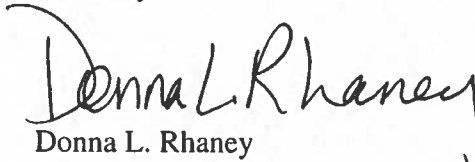
Dear Ms. Boyd,

The South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") has reviewed the Application of CenturyTel Broadband Services, LLC, (the "Company") and believes that the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") granting the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") requested is consistent with the public interest.

ORS reviewed the Company's application and filings to assess the Company's financial, technical and managerial resources. Based on these reviews, ORS has concluded that the Company possesses the resources needed to provide the services requested and that the Company's request for a CPCN is consistent with the public interest. *See* S.C. Code § 58-9-280.

ORS does not intend to attend the hearing scheduled in this matter. Thank you for your consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely,


Donna L. Rhaney

cc: All Parties of Record (via E-mail)
C. Jo Anne Wessinger Hill, Esquire (via E-mail)
David Butler, Esquire (via E-mail)

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